

Sudan's leader names cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) Sudan's military ruler, General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, appointed a 21-member cabinet Sunday, with fellow army officers as deputy prime minister and interior minister. Nine days after ousting the elected government of Prime Minister Sadiq Al-Mishri, Bashir formally added the jobs of prime minister and defence minister to his posts of commander-in-chief of the armed forces and effective head of state. A third officer, an army doctor with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, was named cabinet affairs minister. Career diplomat Ali Salih was appointed foreign affairs minister and a technician, Sayed Ali Zaki, took over the Finance and Planning Ministry. The cabinet will run day-to-day affairs under the supervision of the Revolutionary Council chaired by Bashir. The council is the highest executive and legislative body. Brigadier Mohamed Salih was named deputy prime minister. Brigadier Sayed Ali Abu Saeed was appointed interior minister and Lieutenant-Colonel Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammed took charge of cabinet affairs. The cabinet, announced on state Radio Omdurman, included three ministers from southern Sudan.

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JAE leader receives message from King

MMAN (J.T.) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan Sunday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

The message was delivered to Sheikh Zayed by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, who paid one-day visit to Abu Dhabi. The Jordan News Agency, Petar, said Sheikh Zayed and Sharif

Zaid also discussed the current Arab situation and means of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and the UAE.

Sharif Zaid, who was accompanied by Central Bank Governor (CBJ) Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, returned home Sunday and later left for Damascus to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.

MILITARY EXERCISES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited Armed Forces units. During the



visit, the units performed exercises involving live ammunition and air force manoeuvres

Jordan, Syria open high-level talks

MMAN (Agencies) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee began meetings here Sunday evening under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zouabi.

Addressing the meeting, Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker stressed the need to expand scopes of cooperation and integration among the Arab countries. "Every effort directed in this course will undoubtedly bring success to our Arab Nation, particularly at a time when huge economic gatherings have

emerged, foremost of which being Europe in 1992," he said. "While we live in two neighbouring countries," he continued, "we must look to the future in a way that attains coordination in the industrial fields and eliminates restrictions on economic exchange and seek the establishment of one market."

"We also want to remove all obstacles facing agricultural integration so as to bring about food security and to cooperate to ensure water for irrigation, produce energy, and protect the environment for the best of

the two countries."

The Syrian prime minister said the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee had achieved successes "that bring us close to integration in all fields."

"Our interests and goals," he added, "are common and we should exert further efforts to promote the march of cooperation."

The Jordanian side to the meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Taher Al Masri, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem,

the ministers of supply, and energy and mineral resources, the minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, and the ministers of industry and trade, transport and telecommunications and water and irrigation as well as the secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Jordanian ambassador to Syria.

The Syrian side to the meeting included the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the minister of agriculture, the minister of transport, the minister of supply and internal trade.

for creating optimum conditions for investment, and enfranchising social justice to enable every citizen contribute to build the homeland, he said.

Tarawneh also summarised the Kingdom's income tax policy.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Advisor Izzat Uzaizi told the conference that the government was going ahead in "containing the effects and repercussions of the economic deterioration by presenting spontaneous and long-term solutions." He also outlined opportunities for investment in Jordan.

The conference resumes its sessions Monday with a morning session devoted to science and technology and their role in developing the country and an evening session devoted to the role of expatriates. One of the expatriates will present a working paper in this regard.

Income tax briefing

Income Tax Department Director General Salman Tarawneh told the conference that Jordan's policy aimed eliminating the budget deficit, preserving the Kingdom's international credibility and supplying the public treasury with funds. It also provides

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Syria tightens Lebanese sea siege

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian gunboats blocking Lebanon's rightist enclave intercepted a yacht Sunday in a further tightening of the siege as Shi'ite Muslim militiamen fought with rockets and machineguns in Beirut.

Security sources said the yacht with six Lebanese aboard was boarded in Lebanon's territorial waters off the enclave and was forced to head for the Syrian port of Tartus. There were no other details.

Lebanese army chief Major-General Michel Aoun, who triggered the latest conflict with Syria in March by vowing to drive its 40,000 troops out of Lebanon, declined to comment on the report.

Sources close to him warned last week of a possible naval confrontation with Syria if it tried to stop ships heading for Aoun's ports. Tarius is 140 kilometres north of Beirut.

Damascus tightened its sea blockade last Monday by sending two warships and five patrol boats to Lebanon's waters to search for ships carrying weapons for Aoun's 15,000-strong army.

The Syrian navy vessels have stopped and searched several ships but the yacht was the first to



Beirutis carry canisters as they cross from east Beirut to west Beirut to fill them with gasoline after Lebanese militiamen lifted a land siege on

the predominantly Christian enclave. There is an acute fuel shortage in east Beirut due to a sea blockade imposed by Syria and allied Lebanese militiamen.

with President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese militia leaders to discuss the situation in Lebanon and other regional issues, a security official said Saturday.

The source said the Shi'ite

Muslim party officials issued a joint communique after their meetings with Velayati Friday and Saturday. The Lebanese officials stressed their commitment to an agreement signed in January to put an end to the fighting between the Amal and Hezbollah.

This was the second meeting in Damascus in less than two months between Velayati and Jibril, who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

The two discussed the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising

IRNA said Amal leader Nabih Berri was among those in Tehran to participate in the ceremony later this week marking the 40th day since the June 3 death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Tehran Radio said Ahmad Jibril, the leader of a Palestinian group suspected of bombing a Pan American jumbo jet, conferred with Velayati in Damascus this week.

This was the second meeting in

Damascus in less than two months between Velayati and Jibril, who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

The two discussed the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising

and stressed the need for cooperation and unity among all the Muslim and national forces of Lebanon, Palestine and the progressive countries against their enemies," said the radio.

Jibril has repeatedly denied that his group was involved in the Pan Am bombing Dec. 21 in which 270 people were killed. Iran has also denied any involvement.

But U.S. and other Western

intelligence officials believe the PFLP-GC carried out the bombing at Iran's request in retaliation for the accidental downing of an Iranian jetliner last July by the missile cruiser USS Vincennes in the Gulf. All 290 people aboard were killed.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MINISTER RECEIVES UAE ENVOY: Raif Al Wazir Saturday received United Arab Emirates Ambassador in Jordan Mohammad Jasem Shaker. They discussed means to develop relations in judicial fields. (Petra)

RAWABDEH MEETS HUNGARIAN ENVOY: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'if Al Rawabdeh Saturday received the Hungarian charge d'affaires in Amman. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between Amman and Budapest. (Petra)

TUNISIAN TEAM AT GEOGRAPHIC CENTRE: A Tunisian delegation Sunday visited the Jordan National Geographic Centre. After hearing a briefing on the centre's establishment and duties, the delegation visited the centre's departments. The delegation arrived in Amman Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan to participate in the periodic meetings of the Jordanian-Tunisian Commission for the Production of Maps. The meetings will focus on means to promote cooperation in drawing maps and exchange expertise. (Petra)

MINISTERS RECEIVE IRAQI ENVOY: Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh and Youth Minister Awad Khleifat Sunday received separately Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Shafiq Jasem Hussein at the conclusion of his tour of duty. (Petra)

RECEPTION AT KING ABDULLAH COMPLEX: Amman Development Corporation (ADC) Monday holds an evening reception at King Abdullah Gardens Complex in Wadi Saqr, in honour of the Jordanian expatriates. (J.T.)

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS INCREASE: Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) sources have noted that Jordan's exports of fresh vegetables and fruits marked an increase by 15.1 tonnes in June and 1.27 tonnes in May compared to the exports during the same period last year. The sources added that Saudi Arabia imported 44 per cent of the exports, Kuwait 24 per cent, Dubai 24 per cent; Qatar and Lebanon 5 per cent each, Bahrain 4 per cent, and Europe 1 per cent. (Petra)

SUMMER CAMP FOR ORPHANS: A total of 130 young orphans have taken part in the annual summer camp for the Orphans which Young Men's Christian Association held at Amman Training College with the cooperation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. During the two-week camp, the children were trained on civil defence activities and first aid. They also carried out scouting trips and attended lectures. (Petra)

MEETING ON ELECTIONS: Facilitating the election process and updating the voter lists in the various constituencies were the major topic of discussion at a meeting held Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleh Massadeh. During the meeting which was attended by acting Amman governor and his assistants, Massadeh called for compiling and updating the voter lists to facilitate the election process and enable all citizens to exercise their right to registration. (Petra)



U.N. drug control chief arrives

ASSISTANT United Nations Secretary General and Director of the United Fund for Drug Abuse Control De Jumeiro arrived in Amman Sunday at the beginning of a five-day official visit to Jordan during which he will meet with Public Security Director Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali and will visit a number of public security units, cultural and archaeological sites. The U.N. official paid a visit to the Narcotics and Forgery Control Department where he was briefed by its director Col. Ghaleb Al Za'bi on its efforts in foiling all attempts for trafficking and acquisition of narcotics. Upon arrival, U.N. official was received by Assistant Public Security Director Brigadier General Nasouh Muallidine, the director of the Criminal Investigation Department, the director of the Narcotic Control Department and the director of Queen Alia International Airport.

14 killed, 303 injured in 2 weeks of road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 14 citizens were killed and 303 others were injured in 460 accidents in the Kingdom during the first two weeks of June 1989, according to Traffic Police Department sources.

The sources said that the last week of June witnessed 261 accidents compared to 317 accidents during the third week of the month.

Despite this decrease in the

number of accidents, the source said, the number of injured was 143 compared to 160 during the third week.

The source attributed this increase to the severity of the accidents.

The source attributed the accidents to wrong overtaking, non-adherence to the right lanes and the crossing of pedestrians from points other than the ones set aside for their crossing.

In a statement to Jordan News Agency, Petra, Director General of the Jordan Ports Corporation (JPC) Eid Al Fayez said that the Jordanian authorities have adopted new measures to facilitate crossing this point. He added that the construction

of the \$2-million passenger terminal had been completed and that it was being furnished.

Fayez noted that all the concerned authorities at Aqaba Port are coordinating efforts to facilitate the flow of passengers through the checkpoint. Transit passengers are allowed to stay in Aqaba from 48-72 hours so as to make the necessary reservations, he said.

Moreover, he added, Egyptian passengers have been exempt from the compulsory insurance, they had to pay in order to facilitate travel via this route.

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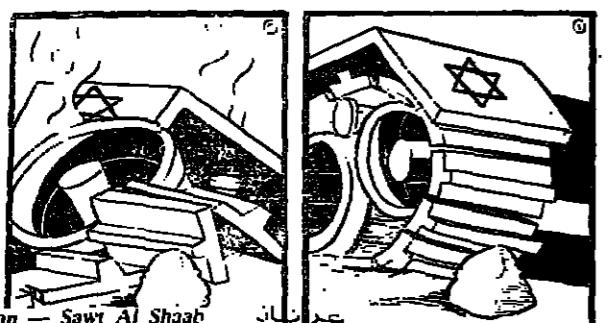
Better late than never

FOR DECADES the Arab World and the international community have been calling for the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council to settle the Arab-Israeli conflicts. During that precious time, the U.S. chose to believe Israel that the only operational way to conclude peace in the Middle East is through direct talks outside the framework of the said conference. Meanwhile, much valuable time and many opportunities went down the drain because of the unwillingness of Washington to subscribe to the international unanimity in favour of the conference principle. And when Yitzhak Shamir came up with his election scheme, Washington rushed to defend the proposal and worked feverously to solicit support for it from the four corners of the world.

Then came the bombshell when Shamir surrendered to the demands of the extremists in his Likud party and adopted the five infamous conditions of the three wicked men of Israel, Sharon, Levy and Modai. That ominous development was too much even for Washington which immediately felt betrayed and deceived by the earlier pious promises of Shamir to give the Palestinians under Israeli occupation free and democratic elections to determine their future. There are voices now within the Bush administration which are beginning to hint that the international conference idea is the only viable way left to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

The Arab World and the rest of the international community which opted for the international conference idea in the first place can now sigh with relief. Why it took Washington so long to see the light, God only knows. But better late than never.

In this context, Amman was and still is faithful to the idea of holding an international conference ever since the adoption of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. During those many years, Jordan was subjected to untold designs to force it to sway away from the idea of international conference. Yet Jordan's steadfastness was firm as ever and the Kingdom rejected all forms of duress no matter how lucrative they appeared. Now time and experience have proven Jordan to be right all along. And with Washington finally seeing the true colours of Israel, one would expect the remaining stumbling blocks in the path of convening the projected international conference to dissipate for ever.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Sunday commented on Crown Prince Hassan's address to the fifth Jordanian expatriates conference, echoing his call on the expatriates to come to the help of their homeland in time of need. Al Ra'i daily said that the Prince's speech was marked with objectivity and candor, covering all aspects of the economic situation in the Kingdom and the best means to bolster the national economy. Prince Hassan was careful to stress two important points: That Jordan was totally committed to Arab causes and so it can never deviate from its present national course, and that the Kingdom is moving towards unity with the other Arab countries particularly within the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which forms a nucleus for a pan-Arab unity, the paper pointed out. It said that the Crown Prince also reminded his audience of the huge responsibilities shouldered by Jordan in defence of the Arab Nation and which added to the country's economic burdens. The Prince's address, said the paper, was a clear message to the expatriates calling on them to assume their responsible role towards their country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the Palestinians not to be deceived by the empty promises of the United States which continues to provide the Israelis with the means of perpetuating their occupation of Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights. Tareq Masaarweh says that the Palestinian Fatah organisation is scheduled to hold a meeting in Tunis shortly and could come under the influence of American ideas, but they ought to open their eyes clearly and learn from the previous lessons and the Arab Nation's unfruitful dealings with Washington. The writer says that Washington, which is closely linked with Israel in strategic alliance, has nothing to offer the Arabs only lip service and empty promises. He cites Henry Kissinger's diplomacy in the Middle East which caused splits between Egypt and Syria following the 1973 war, isolated Iraq and helped the Israelis to consolidate their hold over Palestine. The writer warns the Palestinians not to be taken in by Washington's slogans like "Jewish settlements are not legal" or that "Jewish settlements do not promote the cause of peace," which emerged under the Carter and the Reagan administrations.

Al Dustour daily commented on Prince Hassan's address to the Jordanian expatriates in which he presented an outline of the Jordanian economy and underlined the present difficult circumstances. The paper noted that Jordan's heavy defence burdens and its pan-Arab commitments were behind the present difficulties, and that the expatriates have a role to play and help their homeland overcome its predicament. The Prince was careful to emphasise Jordan's total pan-Arab commitments regardless of the current situation, and the Kingdom's drive to reach Arab integration through the Arab Cooperation Council, the paper noted. It said that Crown Prince Hassan reminded his audience of Jordan's great achievements and expressed this country's determination to pursue the struggle despite the temporary difficult conditions.

A new approach to development

By Vera Miljkovic

THE SHORTAGE of capital and the mounting burden of debt servicing has slowed down investments in the developing countries since the start of the decade. But this negative tendency has its brighter side, as the new attitude to investment planning shows. The developing nations have taken a more studious approach and regional coordination of projects has improved, resulting in better complementarity and more flexible development concepts.

The majority of industrial facilities constructed or started in the developing world in recent years were preceded by serious feasibility studies. The results are already apparent — many developing countries have managed to substantially diversify their ex-

ports.

In contrast to the investment boom of the 1970s when the developing nations, prodded by multinational companies, opted to build large industrial facilities without first ensuring raw material sources and trained personnel to operate the sophisticated equipment and technology, the new orientation gives priority to the use of local natural resources, personnel training and infrastructure development.

With almost no exceptions, the developing countries are funneling the greater part of their investments into building roads and rail links and developing air transport. Several hundred such projects are under way. Among the most ambitious is Iraq's 1,200-kilometre long expressway No. 1, the 1,183-kilometre trans-

Yugoslav highway and Libya's plan to invest \$10 billion in rail links totalling 3,000 kilometres. As for air transport, the tendency is toward regional integration, which is especially evident in Africa.

Projects to link national electric power grids, and joint oil and mineral exploration and exploitation also testify that the developing countries have taken a more rational approach in planning their development.

For a long time, the developing countries made many misguided development decisions. But the current trend shows that the shortcomings are being overcome. The credit goes in great measure to international institutions such as the UNDP, IFAD, UNIDO and UNESCO. They helped to organise training of

personnel from the developing countries and secured easier terms for technology transfer. Collaboration among the developing nations themselves through training courses, setting up of technological data banks, exchange of experts, consulting services, etc., was also a major contribution.

The developing countries would have been eased out of world economic development had they not made full use of the potentials of mutual cooperation, said eminent Indian economist Dr. Manmohan Singh at a recent OECD symposium in Paris.

The effect of privatisation of the industrial sector in the Third World should not be disregarded either. Privatisation has become widespread in the developing countries, and has mobilised ma-

ajor financial resources. Yugoslavia, for instance, plans the establishment of some 7,000 private businesses each year until the end of the century. Many Third World countries are developing stock markets. According to the International Financial Corporation (IFC), stock markets in Brazil, Mexico, Taiwan and South Korea last year grew at eight times the rate of, for example, the New York Stock Exchange, or three times faster than the Tokyo Exchange.

Though the solving of these problems is being put off, awareness of the interdependence of the world is growing. It is to be expected that the consequences of the mistakes made by both sides will not long be borne by the developing countries alone, especially now that it has been accepted that the development of the Third World is also to the benefit of the industrialised nations. — Tanjug features.

To save the environment, free information

By Lloyd Timberlake

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to maintain environmental quality and to use environmental resources sustainably without freedom of information. This has been true in the past, is true now, and is the basis for any hope that humankind will be able successfully to cope in the future with new environmental challenges.

But it is odd how little consideration has been given to this truth. The inattention probably stems from the strange, confused history of what might loosely be called "the environmental movement."

Looking back in the 1960s and early 1970s, we remember that people in Western Europe and North America then began to notice how the rapid industrial growth since the second world war was degrading nature. Rivers were dirty, the air was dirty; the birds were dying. So governments established ministries of the environment and, consulting the right scientists, passed "Clean Air" and "Clean Water" acts. Things improved.

The trouble with this account is that it leaves out key steps in the process, and these omissions have tended to teach us, wrongly, that environmental issues are best left to government ministries and scientists.

What actually happened was that, in a greater or lesser degree, local environmental problems were reported by local journalists, and these journalists often based their articles on reports made available by local government or scientists.

As it became clear that some local problems were regional, and some national pressure groups organised around these issues, Major newspapers and magazines and television networks gathered local stories into national surveys. The resulting popular concern frightened politicians into action. It was only then that the laws were passed. Thus any history of the environmental movement in Western Europe and North America must focus on access to information by the media and pressure groups and on the workings of democratic systems.

To test the validity of this recounting of the movement, one need only look at nations which have lacked a democratic system, a free press and the freedom to campaign.

The governments of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe also participated in international gatherings such as the 1972 U.N. Conference on the Human Environment at Stock-

holm. The Soviet Union, for example, passed some strict environmental regulations, often (in the case of, say, exposure to microwaves) much stricter than in the United States. But the Soviet government waived those regulations when they conflicted with industrial targets and "security concerns." And as they almost always raised such conflicts, they were rarely enforced.

But it was difficult for people to complain about the lack of enforcement. The press did not cover these issues. There were no active environmental pressure groups. Politicians had no reason to be alarmed to act. The same was true across much of Eastern Europe, and thus large areas of Eastern Europe became hazardous to human health.

"Lack of access to environmental data — coupled with the lack of the data in the first place and poor, often government-controlled news distribution systems — is also keeping many Third World nations from coming to grips with the effects of rapid desertification and deforestation. In parts of Africa, journalists often write about the extent of erosion and forest loss, but may not be allowed to write about some of the basic causes of the loss of trees and topsoil. Often a basic reason is that farmers are paid too little for their produce so as to keep food prices low in the city, where the government workers, police, soldiers and middle-class all live."

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It was with both the old and the new environmental challenges in mind, along with the fact that the gap between rich and poor nations was widening, that the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution in 1983 establishing the independent "World Commission on Environment and Development" under the chairmanship of Norwegian Premier Gro Harlem Brundtland. After more than three years of research and public hearings on five continents, the commission published its report in 1987. Translated into many languages, the report — entitled Our Common Future but now referred to more often as the Brundtland Report — was adopted in the late 1987 by General Assembly resolution as the way forward for the U.N. system, and urged upon national governments to take action to combat environmental degradation than to explain its causes, which tend to have roots in political and economic systems.

The nature of environmental issues has changed radically from the "point source pollution" of the 1960s — nasty stuff coming from pipes into streams and the air, which were local problems with local solutions — to the international pollution of the 1980s and beyond.

The theme of the report is "sustainable development," defined essentially as forms of de-

velopment which meet the needs of this generation without making it more difficult or impossible for future generations to meet their own needs. The 22 Commissioners from 22 nations listed several prerequisites for sustainable development, the first being "a political system that secures effective citizen participation in decision-making." Given that there are very few such political systems among the planet's 190-plus nations, this quiet report actually becomes very revolutionary in its recommendations.

The call for such participation is based not primarily on considerations of human rights, but on practicalities.

First, the only nations to deal effectively with the first generation of pollution problems were those which had a fair amount of democracy and freedom of information. Second, global deforestation, desertification, global warming and ozone depletion are all syndromes based on the individual acts of billions of individuals. Governments cannot dictate the acts of people in the Amazon rainforest, the Sahelian drylands, or even the industrialised North.

Only One Earth notes repeatedly the obvious fact that effective citizen participation requires informed citizens. It recommends that the governments recognise: "the right of individuals to know and have access to current information on the state of the environment and natural resources, the right to be consulted and to participate in decision-making on activities likely to have a significant effect upon the environment, and the right to legal remedies and redress for those whose health or environment have been or may be seriously affected."

In this regard, not all Western/Northern democracies need feel so superior to their Eastern/Southern neighbours. Britain's secrecy laws, for example, mean that all information on the environment in the government's possession belongs to the government and not to the British people. The government may if it chooses give the people information; however, it is a gift to which the people have no right.

But they will need it. They will need to understand all the complex problems and all of the complex mixes of solutions that are feasible. We have all been part of the problem, but only if we have access to information and open debate can we all be part of the solution — *The Guardian*.

Challenge of change for African summit

THE pace of recent political changes — both globally and in Africa itself — should ensure that the forthcoming Organisation of African Unity summit is one of the most eventful, and possibly the most rewarding, for many years.

There is much for the heads of state of the 50-member regional grouping to discuss and pass judgement upon when they meet in Addis Ababa from July 24 to 26. The deliberations should indicate how Africa is adjusting to the evolving international scene, especially the thawing of East-West relations.

But inevitably the summit will also focus closely on what is happening in southern Africa. For almost the whole of the OAU's 27-year history the sub-continent's seemingly intractable problems have been a major preoccupation for the pan-African body.

Since last year's meeting, however, what more optimistic observer sees as the beginnings of a transformation have been occurring in the troubled region. And it must be admitted that the process appears to be gathering momentum in what will hopefully prove to be a chain-reaction of successes.

The latest manifestation is the accord aimed at ending the 14 years of internal strife which has plagued Angola since it became independent. This, in turn, may encourage a similar breakthrough in Mozambique, while there are even signs that significant progress may not be long in coming over the South African problem.

Southern African issues have always been high on OAU agendas. There were the decolonisation struggles in Angola, Mozambique and what is now Zimbabwe, as well as the still unresolved confrontation with South Africa over apartheid. Unfortunately, the departure of the Portuguese from Angola and Mozambique merely created new problems, which also made more difficult the task of dislodging the South Africans from Namibia, the former German colony of South-west Africa.

As the political horizon brightens in Southern Africa, the OAU will be anxious to see some signs of an end to that other long-running sore, the internal conflict wracking the host country, Ethiopia.

War-weariness among the armed forces in face of what they regard as the unwinnable struggles against guerrillas in Eritrea and Tigre province, led to the recent abortive coup against the Mengistu regime. Even before this bloody episode the secessionists had been offered peace negotiations, partly as a result of growing pressure from Ethiopia's ally, the USSR — *Lion features*.

The unravelling of the sub-continent's "knots" began with last November's agreement over Angola and Namibia, two questions which had become intertwined.

Although the signatures were the Angolan, Cuban and South African governments, the

Portuguese from Angola and the USSR — *Lion features*.

The latest development is the signing of an accord between the Angolan, Cuban and South African governments to end the civil war in Namibia.

The Angolan and Cuban governments have agreed to withdraw their troops from Namibia and to allow the South African government to take over the administration of the country.

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Life after death in Tehran

This is the first of three articles about the condition of women in Iran.

"ARAHNAZ threw open the wooden door and sprang into the auna, wriggling her backside. 'I am in mourning for Khomeini,' she exclaimed, pointing to her black lacy knickers.

Five miles further south, Estemeh was also in black and mourning for the newly-buried Ayatollah. Wrapped from head to toe in an all-enveloping veil, she had lost two sons in the war against Iraq and carried her grief quietly.

Tehran — 10 years after the evolution that toppled the Shah — is still hopelessly divided between those who literally worship to ground the craggy-browed Ayatollah stood on and those no longer for the good old days of the Shah.

The dividing line is Jomhouri Republic, a tree-lined avenue of four-storey blocks that cuts east-west centrally through Tehran and was once called Avenue Shah. Spreading north to the towering Alborz mountains, still rushed by a hint of winter snow, are first the green parks, then the cemeteries, and lastly the tall unlined luxury apartments (most standing guard duty to the likes of the rich nesting below in Shah's old marbled palaces). Below Jomhouri, the city runs south, first through the famous bazaar and then via several congested arterial roads to meet upon street of shabby little houses, neither slums nor housing estates. The area is poor and largely over-peopled; since the evolution and Gulf war, residents and refugees have moved into the city doubling the population to eight million — perhaps even more.

South Tehran is the heart of home-in-land, where the Ayatollah's writ still runs and the Ayatollah's pictures loom ever larger. Down here, most families we visited the new gold shrine

the vast Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery at least twice. For many a second visit on the seventh is something of a day out — free bus trip and, after some wretched mourning, handouts of bread and water melon. There's a lot to do in south Tehran except pray, attend rallies, and sleep.

Up north, most Tehranis ached the massive outpouring of grief at Behesht-e-Zahra on an imported television sets. For any, relief was largely the order that Sunday morning, June 4, when Iranians woke up to the news that the long ailing Ayatollah had died overnight of five heart attacks and severe cancer of the bowel.

Only an antique opium pipe and pictures of two pretty teenagers hint at the secret grief of Ayatollah, a plump, pouty-lipped young mother whose appetite for odd food, her extensive wardrobe of designer clothes and reign travel has been shar-



A young Iranian woman-vanguard of the revolution?

pened, not blunted, by the revolution. Her large apartment is laid with precious Persian rugs, exquisite blue and silver-threaded pieces from Nain, and her taste is mostly Louis XV and heavy ormolu mirrors.

Mariam makes little attempt to hide her contempt for the Ayatollah and his "medieval, mullahs" who "are ruining the country" and have "forced me to send my daughters to the U.S." In any other revolution, Mariam and her husband, who made his fortune as a building contractor under the Shah, would have been quickly dispossessed or worse, but thanks largely to the arcane laws of ownership under Islam, the couple have been allowed to keep their chunk of prime real estate.

Mariam had another reason to celebrate that Sunday morning: she had inherited a small plot of land close to the simple house where Khomeini had spent his last days in the village of Jamaran. The house and adjacent mos-

que were fast becoming places of pilgrimage and Mariam was putting the finishing touches to a play about Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, the publication of which led to a complete break in British-Iran diplomatic ties last March.

An articulate, patently strong-willed woman, she prefers "to be a woman in my own right" and rarely refers to her husband, revolutionary Iran's fifth prime minister and hardliner, Hossein Mousavi. Immediately after Khomeini's death she took off her wedding ring, saying: "I'm not in that kind of mood right now."

Rahnavaid is proud of being "a follower of Khomeini, a Hezbollahi" — that much-maligned word both in the West and among exiled Iranians. She speaks of "having needed the revolution," of being "at the service of Islam before, during and after the revolution" and of being "proud to reject both West (capitalism) and

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G-10 central bankers meet today to plan tightrope walk on interest rates

ZURICH (R) — Central bankers from the West's leading industrialised countries meet in Basle Monday to coordinate a delicate walk along the interest rate tightrope.

To succeed, they must find a balanced monetary policy to choke off inflationary pressure without pushing their economies into recession, financial analysts said.

On Tuesday representatives of European Community (EC) central banks will also gather to start the nuts-and-bolts application of plans for West European economic and monetary union.

Monday's regular monthly meeting of Group of 10 (G-10) central bankers at the Bank for International Settlements in Basle is the first since the West German Bundesbank led a coor-

dinated round of European interest rate hikes on June 29.

Six other countries followed the West German central bank's lead in moves which analysts said underscored their desire to work together and their determination to fight inflation.

The spotlight is now on the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) Board, whose policy committee met last Wednesday and Thursday to chart its monetary course.

Financial markets have been speculating that the Fed may cut interest rates and ease its grip on money supply growth amid signs that the U.S. economy is starting

to slow.

News Friday that unemployment in the United States grew to 5.3 per cent in June from 5.2 per cent in May and that non-farm payrolls rose more slowly than expected helped fuel such guess-work.

Some currency traders suspected that the European rate hikes might have been coordinated with the Fed, which they thought would push rates lower to help brake the dollar's strength.

But one European central bank source who declined to be identified said the rate increases did not necessarily pressue lower U.S. rates. "This was more of a European thing," he said.

Lower dollar
Even without Fed action, the

dollar has started to fall from 2½ year highs as markets sniff lower U.S. rates.

Many economists believe the G-10 is content to watch markets drive the dollar lower.

"They'll probably give themselves a pat on the back for that," said S.G. Warburg economist George Magnus in London.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady Friday said a dollar rise would undermine attempts to cut the U.S. trade deficit, but an excessive decline would be "counterproductive."

The European interest rate increases sparked no reaction in Japan, where a senior Bank of Japan official said the bank did not plan to follow suit. "That is not sufficient reason for us to act. The situation in Japan is not quite ripe for that."

Tuesday's meeting of EC central bankers is the first since EC leaders agreed at their summit in Madrid last month to proceed with plans for economic and monetary union.

The first phase of the scheme is to start July 1, 1990, and aims at greater coordination of the Community's 12 economies through strengthening existing institutions.

One European monetary source said Tuesday's meeting will not produce any big decisions, but added that central bankers had an easier task than EC finance ministers had.

"Monetary policy coordination is the most practical prospect. Fiscal policy coordination is much more difficult politically, and cannot be done on a monthly basis," the source said.

markets to the delay by the Nabi-based Vegetable Oil Company in sending sufficient quantities of ghee to Jordan in addition to the great demand for this product by both the citizens and merchants who are storing it.

The minister noted that the supply law is currently being amended to allow the ministry a bigger role in controlling commodity prices and to refer price violators to the concerned courts.

Ayyoub added that a shipment of 16,000 tonnes of sugar and 600,000 tonnes of powdered milk had earlier arrived in Amman and is currently being discharged at the ministry's warehouses.

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Tighter price controls in offing

Ministry of Supply distributes foodstuffs at same old prices

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Sunday resumed distribution of sugar, rice and milk to whole sellers and retailers in addition to the Civil Servants Consumers Corporation, the Jordan Military Consumer Corporation and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation's markets. Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub said

ministry will sell such foodstuffs at the same current subsidised prices, despite the new exchange rates of the dinar.

The minister noted that the supply law is currently being amended to allow the ministry a bigger role in controlling commodity prices and to refer price violators to the concerned courts.

Ayyoub added that a shipment of 16,000 tonnes of sugar and 600,000 tonnes of powdered milk had earlier arrived in Amman and is currently being discharged at the ministry's warehouses.

The minister attributed the shortage of butter ghee in the

markets to the delay by the Nabi-based Vegetable Oil Company in sending sufficient quantities of ghee to Jordan in addition to the great demand for this product by both the citizens and merchants who are storing it.

However, Ayyoub noted, the company, being the sole supplier of vegetable ghee, has agreed to send enough quantities to Jordan very soon.

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Jordan, Australia kick off joint agricultural project

on the project.

Signing the agreement for the Jordanian government was Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, while it was signed for the Australian government by the Australian ambassador to Jordan Terry Geoghegan.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian and Australian governments Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding under which the Australian government will contribute \$1,572,000 to finance costs of providing experts for a joint Jordanian-Australian agricultural project, designed to

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

'USSR cannot meet housing goals'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has a dire housing crisis and cannot meet its ambitious goal of giving every family a home by the year 2000, Moscow's communist youth newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets has said. Citing data from the Russian Federation's state statistical committee, the newspaper said the simple mathematics of supply and demand showed the goal could not be met. The government has planned to build 36 million new flats in the next 12 years to give every Soviet family its own home. "Any citizen who wants to know... (can see) from the numbers of people waiting for housing in Moscow and the numbers getting it that not everyone will be able to greet the year 2000 in his own home," the newspaper said. Figures published last year show enormous waiting lists in some areas, including more than 340,000 families of individuals seeking apartments in Moscow alone.

Mexico invites more foreigners

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government has opened Mexico's stock exchange to foreign investment, a move it says will pave the way toward eventual foreign ownership of brokerages, according to newspaper reports. Oscar Espinosa Villareal, president of the National Stock Commission, has said that foreign companies now could serve as advisers and intermediaries to Mexican brokerages from overseas offices, the reports said. They would also be able to invest using foreign currency. The move is the latest in a series of foreign investment liberalisations the government has been enacting since May. Many sectors of the Mexican economy had been reserved exclusively for the government and Mexican investors for years. Espinosa was quoted as saying that opening up the stock market will allow it operate in a more sophisticated manner.

Iran, Hungary diversity trade

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has agreed to import 300,000 tonnes of wheat and 50,000 tonnes of aluminum powder from Hungary. Iran's agriculture minister has said. Issa Kalantari was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying Iran would also buy meat, fertilizers, urea and minerals and sell Hungary crude oil. Only half the agreed \$400 million in barter trade was realised last year and a major topic of discussions in Budapest was non-barter agreements, he said. "Within barter trade only a limited number of goods could be exchanged which probably were not of suitable quality," IRNA monitored in Nicosia, quoted Kalantari as saying. The agreements also included cooperation in rubber, cement and paper production, manufacturing light bulbs and packing equipment and Iranian exports of buses and mini-buses.

Olivetti explores projects in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — The president of Ing. C. Olivetti C. SPA, on a visit to Israel, agreed to study the possibilities of joint projects with Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) Ltd., an IAI spokesman said Sunday. Carlo De Benedetti, head of Italy's computer firm, toured the headquarters of IAI, Israel's largest company, and was briefed on its development of a communications satellite, called Amos. He earlier visited the agricultural cooperative of Kibbutz Ofekim to see high-technology agricultural projects, such as its computerised milking system. He was invited to Israel by Finance Minister Shimon Peres to investigate investment possibilities.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, July 9, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)
U.S. dollar	333.7	361.7
Pound Sterling	903.7	912.7
Denmark	297.1	305.1
Swiss franc	245.1	248.6
French franc	87.5	88.4
		Dutch guilder
		263.8
		86.8
		87.5
		40.9
		41.3
		142.2
		143.6
		Belgian franc (for 10)

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TENDER'S NOTICE

The Project Directorate/ Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tenders which are part of the 7th Education Project No. 2890-JO, sponsored by the World Bank.

A) 58 compulsory schools:

Tender No.	Title	Fees JD
7/89	General furniture	25,000
8/89	Library furniture	10,000
9/89	Laboratory Equipment	15,000
10/89	Women Education	15,000
11/89	Audio Visual Aids	15,000
12/89	Sports Equipment	10,000
13/89	Office Equipment	10,000
14/89	Arts & Craft	10,000
15/89	Vocational Educational W/Shops	15,000
B) Al-Taj Secondary Girls School:		
16/89	Women Education	10,000
17/89	Computer & Office Equip	15,000
C) Retendering:		
3/89	Passenger Vehicles	10,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from Procurement Division at the Projects Directorate/ Ministry of Education, starting July 10, 1989 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10.00 a.m. of Sept. 10th, 1989.

Head of Special Tender Committee

Dr. Munther Al Mesri

Andreotti asked to form new Italian government

ROME (R) — Veteran Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, who has already served as Italy's prime minister five times, agreed Sunday to try to break the country's 51-day political crisis and form a new government.

President Francisco Cossiga asked Andreotti, 70, to try to end the bitter party squabbling which has left a political vacuum since former Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita's five-party coalition collapsed May 19.

With the major parties sounding more conciliatory than they have done for weeks, political commentators were optimistic of Andreotti's chances for success.

After meeting Cossiga at the presidential palace, Andreotti said he accepted the mandate with reserve, the standard formula for a prime minister-designate at the start of negotiations to form a government.

He said he would begin work on his mandate straight away and left immediately for a meeting with Chamber of Deputies (lower house) President Nilde Iotti.

But consultations would have to be suspended while he and De Mita, who remains caretaker prime minister, were in Paris for the week's summit of the world's seven most industrialised democracies, he said.



Giulio Andreotti

people have any really serious doubts about the most experienced of the Christian Democrats' chances of success," the influential *Corriere Della Sera* newspaper wrote.

If Andreotti succeeds, he will have led the government six times, two fewer than his late mentor and Christian Democrat founder Alcide de Gasperi, who holds the post-war record.

It will be the final triumph of his party faction over the left-wing group led by de Mita.

In February de Mita was toppled as party leader, a post he had held for seven years, and in May Craxi, his biggest political foe, brought down his 13-month-old government.

Andreotti, who has been foreign minister since 1983, is one of Italy's best-known politicians both at home and abroad, combining persuasiveness and a quick mind with a chameleon-like ability to adapt to changing political circumstances.

"Andreotti does not fade," the newspaper *La Repubblica* wrote Sunday. "He has the slit eyes of a Chinese Mandarin, the tight lips of an 18th century Jesuit, the circumspect gait of one trying to hide his own shadow from himself."

"To have him as an enemy can be a disaster."

Bush trip to Poland — strong sign of support for reform

WARSAW (R) — U.S. President George Bush flew into Warsaw Sunday ready to urge Poland's leaders to press on with reforms that are loosening the Communist Party's 45-year hold in power.

Bush will offer encouragement for the Solidarity free trade union that since 1980 has spearheaded hopes for democracy and helped push Poland into the vanguard of reform in East Europe.

He will also speak out in support of the radical liberalisation programme agreed by the Communists and Solidarity that has transformed Polish politics in the past six months.

Bush will meet Communist leader Wojciech Jaruzelski, who says the changes this year have set Poland on the road to parliamentary democracy, and also Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

In a deeply symbolic gesture, Bush will Monday become the first U.S. president to address the Polish Parliament, the showpiece of Poland's rapid transition to democracy.

Last month it became the first East Bloc parliament to include a powerful, legal and independent opposition.

Nearly half the 560 deputies and senators are Solidarity members following its crushing win over the Communists in partly-free elections last month.

Solidarity's 259 parliamentarians far outnumber the Communists whose 173 deputies are a minority in the Sejm (lower house) for the first time since 1940s.

In a personal show of support for Solidarity, Bush will fly to the northern port city of Gdansk to lunch at the home of Walesa and his wife Danuta, whom Bush has known since he visited Poland as vice-president in September 1987.

The emotional high point of

Bush's 41-hour visit is likely to be an address to crowds at an imposing Solidarity monument to Gdansk shipyard workers who were shot down by Polish troops during anti-communist riots in 1970.

While speaking out for liberalisation, Bush may privately urge caution on Solidarity leaders, warning them not to push the changes too far too fast.

Solidarity is pressing for the right to form a government in the wake of the elections, and is refusing to support Jaruzelski for the powerful new post of state president.

Jaruzelski last week asked the West for a multi-billion-dollar aid package to lift Poland's economy out of crisis and avert a widely-feared outbreak of popular unrest.

The government and Solidarity are urging the West to help by easing Poland's crippling \$33-billion debt and providing credits to help it through the dislocation that will be caused by switching to a Western-style market economy.



George Bush

tages and coming price hikes could spark an explosion that would force the Polish authorities to abandon reforms, possibly affecting other East Bloc countries.

The government and Solidarity are urging the West to help by easing Poland's crippling \$33-billion debt and providing credits to help it through the dislocation that will be caused by switching to a Western-style market economy.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Uganda rebels kill 6

KAMPALA (R) — Rebel guerrillas, some loyal to former dictator Idi Amin, killed at least six government troops, looted homes, stole cattle, and seized two posts on the Zaire border last week, travellers said Sunday. Army reinforcements moved into the area in northwest Uganda and the rebels had withdrawn into neighbouring Zaire and Sudan. Road communications with northwest Uganda were halted more than a week ago, and air services to Arua, the main town in the area, were suspended. Road links have now been restored, with convoys of vehicles moving under armed escort from Pwakwach, on the Albert Nile, to Masindi, 250 kilometres north of here. Haroun Mukasa, a truck driver, told Reuters he was stranded in Arua for two weeks before he could join a convoy for the return journey.

Norway helicopter strike called off

OSLO (R) — Helicopter pilots who ran all flights to Norway's North Sea oil and gas platforms have ended a week-long strike with agreement in a dispute on pay and conditions. The strike threatened to affect Norway's oil production — at more than 1.5 million barrels per day the biggest in Western Europe after Britain — if it continued for more than another week. Spokesmen for the pilots and management at Helikopter Service A/S said they reached agreement late Saturday night, but declined to give any further details. The spokesmen expected around 700 offshore workers to be transferred to or from platforms Sunday, with a total of 21 flights from the western ports of Stavanger and Bergen. Had the strike continued, oil companies would have needed government approval to keep workers on the platform longer than usual, as safety regulations set strict time limits for offshore work stints.

Woman confesses to old crime

WAUKEGAN, Illinois (AP) — A 63-year-old woman who disappeared after she was accused of killing her lover 21 years ago, only to be discovered earlier this year, has pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter. Bernice van Heise, also known as Gretta Knickerbocker, was accused in the Jan. 31, 1968, shooting death of Eugene Douglas, a 48-year-old artist. She had told police after the killing that the gun fired accidentally when she was handing it to Douglas, authorities said. Douglas was killed by a single gunshot to the back of the head. A judge had initially rejected a murder charge, ruling there was insufficient evidence. A grand jury later indicted her for murder, but she had disappeared. The indictment was withdrawn in 1975. Van Heise was re-indicted in February after authorities received a tip and located her in the rural town of Elburn, about 65 kilometres west of Chicago, where she went by the name Gretta Knickerbocker. She and her husband of 20 years, Conrad Knickerbocker, had moved there in 1976 from the Chicago suburb of Hinsdale. Van Heise pleaded guilty Thursday before Judge Harry Hartel.

Earthquake shakes Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Eleven people were reported injured Sunday morning in the largest of a series of earthquakes that have shaken the Izu peninsula near Tokyo over the past week, police said. The earthquake, which registered 5.5 on the Richter Scale, shook the Tokyo area at 11:09 a.m. Sunday, and was followed one minute later by a milder quake, the meteorological agency said. The first quake was centred in the ocean near Atami on the Izu peninsula about 100 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. It registered four on the Japanese scale near its source, and three in Tokyo. Injuries occurred when people were struck by falling furniture in their homes or splashed by hot oil, police said. Police said no one was reported hospitalised because of a quake injury. However, they said 4,000 people were without electricity in the town of Usami.

Rangoon opposition leader defiant

RANGOON (R) — An opposition leader in Myanmar (formerly Burma), Aung San Suu Kyi, said her pro-democracy movement planned to mark major political anniversaries this summer but did not seek confrontation with the military rulers.

"Our movement is strong, but in a peaceful and disciplined way. We don't want violence, but this does not mean we will sit back weakly and do nothing," she said in an interview in her Rangoon home Saturday.

Aung San Suu Kyi stressed non-violence as a principle of her National League for Democracy (NLD), evoking the civil disobedience methods of India's Mahatma Gandhi and American black rights activist Martin Luther King.

She looked weary after addressing a series of rallies in the capital in the past week which drew big street crowds, in defiance of martial law rules banning public gatherings.

Since early June tension has grown between the military rulers and the NLD, the biggest of 233

political parties which emerged out of last year's mass popular protests against 26 years of repressive and economically disastrous socialist rule.

Aung San Suu Kyi said there had been no plan to demonstrate last Friday, when small groups of youths staged brief rallies in several parts of the capital to mark the anniversary of a bloody attack on students after the 1962 coup which brought General Ne Win to power.

Significant dates

She held a meeting on that day at the NLD headquarters with 200 supporters and representatives of the other parties. "We never intended to hold a demonstration. It's part of a larger plan for the next two months," she said.

The next anniversary is martyrs' day on July 19, the day in 1947 when her father, national hero Aung San, and political colleagues were assassinated shortly before independence from Britain.

Other significant dates are July

23, the anniversary of the formal resignation of Ne Win as leader, Aug. 8-12 when riot police killed hundreds by shooting into pro-democracy rallies last summer, and Sept. 18 when the army took over.

"These dates are important not only for the ideas they stand for but also for what they may do for the movement," Aung San Suu Kyi said. She would not say how the NLD planned to mark them.

She spoke at her family's faded colonial house near the university in northern Rangoon. An NLD flag showing the fighting peacock, a traditional Burmese resistance symbol, hung across one window and a picture of her father on the wall.

The petite 44-year-old emerged as a steely and charismatic opposition leader last year after returning from England to nurse her dying mother. She is married to British academic and speaks in rapid, carefully enunciated English.

She sharply criticised Gen. Saw Maung, head of the ruling State

Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), for accusing her movement of confrontation and indicating the army would act with force.

"I think it is disgraceful for Gen. Saw Maung to make this veiled threat to deploy force. I have always been conciliatory. (The military rulers) are the ones who keep using confrontation, confrontation," she said.

At a press briefing last Thursday Saw Maung accused opposition parties of adopting a policy of confrontation. "Will they not think what would happen to the country by opposing us? Will they not think that many people will die?" he said.

He insisted the timetable for organising promised general elections next May was on schedule and condemned Aung San Suu Kyi for urging people to disobey martial law rules they considered unjust.

"I would like to say this to Aung San Suu Kyi — do not do this. Please do not infringe on (martial law)," he said.

Aung San Suu Kyi repeated criticism of Ne Win, rejecting Saw Maung's assertion that he no longer has political clout. She said Ne Win was still controlling the government and described his pattern of rule as "no dialogue — just bullets."

On Friday troops patrolled Rangoon's streets in jeeps, trucks and armoured vehicles with mounted machine-guns. More than 100 armed troops stood guard near the campus entrance. Nearby roads were temporarily sealed off.

Soldiers filmed and took photographs of passers-by. Shopkeepers watched apprehensively from inside their stores. Two foreign journalists sitting in a restaurant were told to leave the area.

"Curfew, curfew. It's not safe for you here," a soldier told them. The radio reported later that six youths were detained for "disturbances." It said they had been shouting anti-government slogans in a central street under a fighting peacock banner.

World's richest man has world's biggest palace

By Kenneth L. Whiting
The Associated Press

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — Some of the people attending Brunei's first major international conference Thursday got to see the world's biggest palace, with its 1,778 rooms, 18 elevators, 233 staircases and 257 toilets.

Built at the bidding of the man that Fortune Magazine and the Guinness Book of World Records call the world's richest, the Istana Nurul Iman overshadows Buckingham Palace and the Vatican in terms of size.

Foreign ministers from Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States had a joint audience Thursday with the Sultan of Brunei at the larger of two palaces he uses regularly.

The foreign affairs officials were in Brunei to confer with their "dialogue partners" in the Association of South-

Asian Nations (ASEAN) which includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.

Annual meetings are rotated among the six nations, and this was Brunei's first opportunity to act as host since gaining full independence and joining ASEAN in 1984.

Brunei is a former British protectorate on the northern coast of Borneo with enormous wealth from oil and natural gas and a population of only 241,000.

Since Sultan Sir Hassanal Bolkiah rules as an absolute monarch, both Fortune and the Guinness publication assumed he has effective control of the nation's 25 billion-plus U.S. dollars in foreign exchange reserves when they conferred the title of world's richest person on him.

There are no guided tours of the palace, which actually is a series of buildings, atop a hill on 120 hectares near the Brunei river. The main exterior

features are long sloping roofs, like those on traditional longhouses in the jungles of Borneo.

Built from 38 types of marble, it has 1,778 rooms covering 2.2 million square feet, equal to somewhat more than 20.5 football fields. The atmosphere is imposing, but

deadening when Brunei became fully independent. The dead

line was missed by several months and construction industry sources said repairs and rebuilding were required later.

No official cost was ever announced. Unofficial estimates of the budget when it was under construction ranged from \$250 million to \$350 million. Several suppliers familiar with what has gone into the Istana to date reckoned the minimum price was \$600 million.

Istana Nurul Iman is home to Queen Saleha, the Sultan's first wife; Queen Mariam, his second wife, lives at the newer and smaller Istana Nurul Iman, 200 metres from Bandar Seri Begawan. Diplomats say the sultans alternate between the two palaces every other night.

He owns several homes away from home, including the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles, Dorchester Hotel in London and the Hyatt Hotel in Singapore.

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Column 10

Anyone seen a jet engine?

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Missing — two F-16 jet engines, each worth \$2 million. Police have been called in to find the six metre-long 1,600-kilogramme engines which have disappeared from Hill Air Force Base, 50 kilometres north of Salt Lake City, a base spokesman said Friday. Base officials said they did not believe there had been an inventory mistake. The base, which covers 2,700 hectares, has two F-16 fighter squadrons with about 100 planes and provides support operations for Minuteman and MX intercontinental missiles.

'She's my pet, not just a ham'

ATHENS, Alabama (AP) — Julia, a 135-kilogramme pig who loves to have her tummy scratched and drinks diet cola from a can, is a pet, says her owner. She's a hog, says city officials, and can't live within city limits. So now Julia's fate will be decided in court. Two weeks ago, at the request of Athens' animal control director, Ron Ulitz, a municipal court judge ordered veterinarian Bruce Young to comply with ordinances against raising pigs in the city and to send Julia to the country. Young, who found the injured piglet a year ago and took her home, appealed to Limestone County Court and asked that a jury be allowed to decide. "I think I can convince a reasonable jury that she's my pet — and not just a ham," Young said Monday. A county clerk said because Young asked for a jury he will get it. No court date has been set. Another 250 protesters stayed several hours more, walking along the sidewalk around the facility, singing hymns and praying, but by about noon they had dispersed, police said.

"We got the word out," said Ellen Conviser, president of the Boston chapter of the National Organisation for Women. "We appeared and they didn't." In Cranston, Rhode Island, when about eight anti-abortion demonstrators pulled up at a clinic, they found close to 70 pro-choice advocates waiting for them. A clinic spokeswoman said the pro-life activists decided to wait for reinforcements, who did not arrive.

Police Sergeant William Burroughs said the demonstration broke up about at midmorning with no arrests.

CHATHAM, England (AP) — A British model who was the double of Marilyn Monroe has been found dead in circumstances similar to the death of the actress 27 years ago. The nude body of Kay Kent, 24, was found on her bed in a row house in Chatham, 54 kilometres southeast of London. There were sleeping tablets nearby, along with a half-empty bottle of vodka and photographs of Monroe. Stills of the actress, books about her and voice recordings filled the room. She had left a note for a childhood sweetheart, Dean Hammond, a 28-year-old rock singer, which began: "Dear Dean, I love you so very much." Relatives said the remainder was so scrawled they could not read the words, except for the final "love Kay." They said they were certain the model killed herself.

Plane turns back with singing granny

RIMINI, Italy (R) — A plane taking British holidaymakers from Italy turned back after a mid-air fight between a tipsy singing grandmother and her embarrassed daughter. Airport sources said the older woman ended up in hospital following a fist fight which began about 20 minutes after the Dan-Air flight left the Adriatic resort of Rimini for Gatwick airport near London Wednesday. The older woman, described by the sources as drunk, had